

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING TEXT FORMATTING
CONSISTENCY WITHIN AN ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

A Format Consistency Checker (FCC) is provided for monitoring and enhancing text formatting within a document. The FCC is operative to build and maintain a data table that tracks all instances of formatting within a document in association with the location of each
10 formatting instance within the document. The data table is referred to as a PLC and includes a list of "runs". The FCC maintains a table of formatting instances within a particular document in association with the location of each instance. The FCC component operates in combination with three other consistency components. The first of the components is
15 the Formatting Pane which is a tool by which a user can more easily add formatting to a document. The Formatting Pane provides a readily accessible log of all formatting in the document. The log is maintained in a user interface (UI) that can be displayed in the same window as a document being edited. The second component of the invention is the
20 format checker component which operates to determine a minority case of formatting within a particular document and to offer a user an opportunity to modify the minority case formatting to make it consistent with the majority case. The third component is a bullets and numbering component which determines how bullets and/or numbering have been
25 previously applied in the document. The current format of the bullets and/or numbering is then set to be consistent with the majority case of bullets and/or numbering formatting found in the document.

30 Attorney Docket No.: 13237-2715
Microsoft Docket No.: 149441.1